



Christopher A. Walker **Senior Advisor to the Director** **Indian Health Service**

Christopher A. Walker, a member of the Cherokee Nation, accepted the political appointment by the Secretary of Health and Human Service (HHS) to serve as the Senior Advisor to the Director of the Indian Health Service (IHS) in October 2005. The IHS, an agency of the HHS, is the principal federal health care provider and health advocate for approximately 1.8 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to more than 560 federally recognized tribes in 35 states.

As Senior Advisor to the Director, Mr. Walker's primary responsibilities are to provide counsel to the Agency on complex issues and administering special assignments that reflect the priorities, policies, interests, and initiatives of the Agency and the Department. Mr. Walker assists in interdepartmental and interagency deliberation of special issues and projects. He also advises the Agency in the continuing development and expansion of efforts by the IHS, Tribes, and Urban Indian organizations to meet the health needs of the Indian population through collaborations with states and other federal agencies.

Mr. Walker came to the IHS from the Cherokee Nation Health Services. He served the Cherokee Nation for 8 years in various capacities, including as Executive Director and as the Senior Director for Health Policy, Planning, and Development. Mr. Walker also was a founder of the Muscular Performance Lab of Ardmore, Oklahoma, and CogniCare Corporation of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He has developed significant career experience in the supervision of employee groups involved in health management, therapy, marketing, direct care, and technical support functions.

Mr. Walker served as Chairman of the Oklahoma City Inter-Tribal Health Board and as board member of the Cherokee County Health Coalition. He also served on the IHS National Alcohol-Substance Abuse Workgroup and was Area Delegate for the IHS Tribal Budget Formulation for fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Mr. Walker holds a master of social work degree from the University of Oklahoma.